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## No. III.

*To determine the true Place of a Planet, in an Elliptical Orbit, directly from the mean Anomaly, by Converging Series, by*  
DAVID RITTENHOUSE, L. L. D. *President A. P. S.*

Read Feb. 5, 1796. **L**ET  $x$  = the eccentricity,  $y$  the mean anomaly in the arch of a circle the radius whereof is 1. And  $a$ , an arch required.

For the upper half of the orbit, let  $\frac{x}{x+1} = n$ , and  $\frac{y}{x+1} = z$ .

$$\text{Then } a = z + \frac{n}{6} z^3 + \frac{nn}{12} - \frac{n}{120} z^5 + \frac{nnn}{18} - \frac{nn}{90} + \frac{n}{5040} z^7 + \frac{55n^4}{1296} - \frac{11n^3}{864} + \frac{41nn}{60480} - \frac{n}{362880} z^9 \&c.$$

Find the log. of the natural cosine of  $a$ , and the log. of the same cosine  $+ x$ , and add the difference of these two logarithms, and likewise the complement of the log. of the conj. semidiameter, and the log. cotang. of  $a$ , together, the sum will be the log. cotang. of the true anomaly.

*For the lower half of the Orbit.*

Let  $y$ , be the mean anomaly from the lower apsis,  $\frac{x}{1-x} = n$ , and  $\frac{y}{1-x} = z$ .

$$\text{Then } a = z - \frac{n}{6} z^3 + \frac{nn}{12} + \frac{n}{120} z^5 - \frac{nnn}{18} + \frac{nn}{90} + \frac{n}{5040} z^7 + \frac{55n^4}{1296} + \frac{11n^3}{864} + \frac{41nn}{60480} + \frac{n}{362880} z^9 \&c.$$

Take the difference between the log. of the nat. cosine of  $a$ , and the log. of the same cosine  $- x$ , and subtract this diff. — the comp. above mentioned from the log. cotang. of  $a$ , the remainder is the log. cotang. of the true anomaly, counted from the lower apsis.

If the co-efficients prefixed to the powers of  $z$ , be computed for any particular orbit, and their logarithms used instead of the numbers themselves, the calculation will afterwards be very simple for any degree of mean anomaly in that orbit, as will appear by the following example.

In the very elaborate tables of Mr. Zach, published in 1792 the eccentricity of the Earth's orbit is assumed .0167923, consequently log. of the lesser semidiameter will be — 1.9999387, its  
D complement

complement .0000613, and the log. of  $n = -2.2178779$  and the series for the upper half of the orbit

will be,  $a = a + -3.4397266. z^3$  The negative sign  
 $-4.0603053. z^5$  prefixed to these  
 $+ -7.6959472. z^7$  logarithms affects  
 $-8.9982252. z^9$  &c. the index only.

For the lower half,  $a = x - -3.4543136. z^3$   
 $+ -4.2217638. z^5$   
 $-6.8392607. z^7$   
 $+ -7.4939405. z^9$  &c.

*For the logarithm of the distance in any part of the Orbit.*

To the log. sine of  $a$ , add the comp. of the log. sine of the true anomaly — the comp. of the log. of the conjugate semidiam. the sum will be the true log. of the distance.

*Example of the Calculation.*

The Sun's mean anomaly being  $11^s 6^o 30'$  required the true anomaly or equation.

Arch of  $66^o 30' = 1.16064395 =$

$y$ , log. = .0646990

Sub. 1 +  $x$  log. .0072323

log  $z = .0574667 z = 1.1414758$

$z^3 = .1724001$

$+ -3.4397266$

$-3.6121267 = +.0040938.01$

$z^5 = .2873335$

$+ -4.0603053$

$-4.3476388 = -.0002226.58$

$z^7 = .4022669$

$+ -7.6959472$

$-6.0982141 = +.0000012.54$

$z^9 = .5172003$

$+ -8.9982252$

$-7.5154255 = -.0000003.27$

$+ 1.1455708.55$

$- .0002229.85$

$a = 1.1453478.7 = 65^o 37' 24''.96$

Log.

$$\text{Nat. cosine of } a = .4127292.5 \log. = -1.6156652$$

$$\text{Eccent. } + .0167923.$$

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$$.4295215.5 \log. = -1.6329849$$


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$$\text{Diff. log.} = .0173197$$

$$\text{Comp. of conj. femidiam. log.} = .613$$

$$\text{Cotang. of } a, 65^\circ 37' 24''.96 = 9.6562166$$


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$$\text{Cotang. of true anomaly } 64^\circ 45' 0''.8 = 9.6735976$$

$$\text{Log. sine } a = 9.9594487$$

$$\text{Log. sine } 64^\circ 45' 0''.8 \text{ comp} = .0436122$$


---

$$\text{Comp. of log. conj.} - \begin{array}{r} 10.0030609 \\ 613 \end{array}$$


---

$$\text{Log. distance} = 10.0029996$$

Hence the equation is  $1^\circ 44' 59''.2$ . In Zach's tables it is  $1^\circ 44' 59''.25$ .

The series above given converge slowly when the mean anomaly is near 3 S. or 9 S. In this case the true anomaly may be obtained with great accuracy by a series derived from that which expresses the cosine in terms of its correspondent arch, as follows,

Subtract the eccentricity from the mean anomaly and call the remainder R. Let the difference between R and  $90^\circ$  be  $= z$ ,

$$\text{Then } R + \frac{x}{2} z z \pm \frac{xx}{2} z^3 - \frac{\sqrt{x}}{24} - \frac{5xxx}{8} z^4 + \frac{\sqrt{xx}}{8} - \frac{7x^4}{8} z^5 +$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{x}}{720} - \frac{7xxx}{24} + \frac{21x^5}{16} z^6 \&c. = a$$

And  $a$  will be the true anom. counted from the upper apsis.

*For the Earth's Orbit.*

$$a = R + \begin{array}{l} -3.9240802. z z \\ +4.1491904. z^3 \\ -4.8430581. z^4 \\ +5.5462722. z^5 \\ +5.3413007. z^6 \\ \pm 6.4890406. z^7 \end{array}$$

The uppermost of the signs prefixed to the 3d 5th and 7th powers of  $z$  must be used when R exceeds  $90^\circ$  and the lower sign when R is less than  $90^\circ$ .

## PLACE OF A PLANET IN

*Examples of Calculation.*

Sun's mean anomaly  $60^{\circ} 50'$  required the true anom. and equation.

$$60^{\circ} 50' = 1.06174196$$

$$-x = .0167923$$

$$R = 1.04494966$$

$$90^{\circ} = 1.57079633$$

$$z = .52584667$$

$$\text{Log. } z = 1.7208591$$

$$zz = 1.4417182$$

$$+ 3.9240802$$

$$- 3.3657984 +$$

$$z^3 = 1.1625773$$

$$+ 4.1491904$$

$$- 5.3117677 -$$

$$z^4 = 2.8834364$$

$$+ 4.8430581$$

$$- 5.7264945 -$$

$$R = 1.04494966$$

$$+ 232166$$

$$+ 141$$

$$+ 46$$

$$1.04727319$$

$$\text{Sum of} - 7380$$

$$a = 1.04719939 = 60^{\circ} 0' 0''.38$$

$$\text{Nat. coline} = .4999984 \text{ Log.} = .6989686$$

$$+ x .0167923$$

$$.5167907 \text{ Log.} = .7133147$$

$$\text{Diff.} = .0143461$$

$$+ 613$$

$$\text{Cotang. } 60^{\circ} 0' 0''.38 = 9.7614376$$

$$\text{Cotang. true anomaly } 59^{\circ} 10' 13''.1 = 9.7758450$$

$$\text{Equation} - 1^{\circ} 39' 46''.9.$$

The

# AN ELLIPTICAL ORBIT.

25

The Sun's mean anomaly  $120^{\circ} 50'$  required the true anomaly and equation.

$$120^{\circ} 50' = 2.10893951$$

$$-x = .0167923$$

$$R = 2.09214721$$

$$90^{\circ} = 1.57079633$$

$$z = .52135088$$

$$\text{Log. } z = -1.7171301$$

$$zz = -1.4342602$$

$$+ -3.9240802$$

$$-3.3583404 = +.00228213$$

$$z^3 = -1.1513903$$

$$+ -4.1491904$$

$$-5.3005807 = +.00001998$$

$$z^4 = -2.8685204$$

$$+ -4.8430581$$

$$-5.7115785 = -.00005147$$

$$z^5 = -2.5856505$$

$$+ -5.5462722$$

$$-6.1319227 = -.00000135$$

$$z^6 = -2.3027806$$

$$+ -5.3413007$$

$$-7.6440813 = +.00000044$$

$$\text{Sum of } + = .00230255$$

$$\text{Sum of } - = -5282$$

$$+.00224973$$

$$R = 2.09214721$$

$$+ 224973$$

$$2.09439694 = 120^{\circ} 0' 0''.38$$

Comp.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{Log.} \\
 \text{Comp. to } 180^\circ = a = 59^\circ 59' 59''.62 \text{ col. } .5000015.9 = .6989714 \\
 - x = .0167923. \\
 \hline
 .4832092.9 = .6841352 \\
 \text{diff.} = .0148362 \\
 \text{Cotang. } 59^\circ 59' 59''.52 = 9.7614412 \\
 \hline
 9.7466050 \\
 + \quad \quad 613 \\
 \hline
 \text{Tang. } 29^\circ 9' 48'' = 9.7466663 \\
 + \quad 90 \\
 \hline
 \text{True anomaly } 119^\circ 9' 48'' \\
 \text{Mean anom. } 120^\circ 50' 00'' \\
 \hline
 \text{Equation} - 1^\circ 40' 12''
 \end{array}$$

If the 1st and 6th  $60^\circ$  of mean anomaly in the Earth's orbit be computed by the first series, the 3d and 4th  $60^\circ$  by the second series, and the 2d and 5th by the last series, no more than the first 3 terms containing powers of  $z$ , need be used, for the equation cannot be had true to  $\frac{1}{100}$  of a second without tables of logarithms carried farther than to 7 places.

#### Nº. IV.

*On the Improvement of Time-keepers,* by DAVID RIT-  
TENHOUSE, L. L. D. *President of the Society.*

Read Nov.  
7, 1794.

THE invention and construction of time-keepers may be reckoned amongst the most successful exertions of human genius. Pendulum clocks especially, have been made to measure time with astonishing accuracy; and if there are still some causes of inequality in their motions, the united efforts of mechanism, philosophy and mathematics will probably in time remove them.

The last and least of those causes, which perhaps may be worthy of notice when all others of more importance are